AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) An electric motor having a ventilation system which inhibits generation of noise, the motor comprising:

a housing defined by a hollow casing;

a stator secured in the housing;

a rotor and a rotor shaft mounting the rotor for rotation in the housing about an axis;

a fan mounted on said rotor shaft for rotation to advance a flow of cooling air through the housing to cool the motor, the fan having ~~a central hub and~~ a plurality of blades; and

a baffle secured in the housing at a position generally between the stator and the fan, the baffle including an annular section having a curved surface extending axially above at least a portion of the fan, ~~an annular shape and a central opening;~~ the blades of the fan having a shape corresponding to the curved surface of the annular section of the baffle ~~wherein the blades of the fan are spaced from the hub thereby forming a clearance region between the hub and the blades, the baffle directing said flow of cooling air through the clearance region~~.

8. (original) An electric motor as set forth in claim 7 wherein the fan has an intended direction of rotation about said axis and wherein the blades of the fan are inclined in a direction opposite said direction of rotation.

9. (original) An electric motor as set forth in claim 8 wherein the baffle has an upstream side facing toward the stator and an opposite downstream side facing toward the fan, and wherein the baffle is positioned such that the downstream side is spaced from the fan blades with a gap which is generally uniform in size along the gap.

10. (original) An electric motor as set forth in claim 9 wherein said gap is within a range of from about 1/16 inch to 3/16 inch.

11. (currently amended) An electric motor having a ventilation system which inhibits generation of noise, the motor comprising:

a housing defined by a hollow casing;

a stator secured in the housing;

a rotor and a rotor shaft mounting the rotor for rotation in the housing about an axis;

a fan mounted on said rotor shaft for rotation to advance a flow of cooling air through the housing to cool the motor, the fan having a plurality of blades; and

a baffle secured in the housing at a position between the stator and the fan, the baffle having ~~An electric motor as set forth in claim 9 further comprising~~ a rim ~~on the baffle which is~~ positioned generally at an outer periphery of the baffle, the rim having at

least one tab configured for being received in a corresponding hole in the casing to releasably secure the baffle in the casing.

12-16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) An electric motor as set forth in claim 7 wherein ~~a portion~~ said annular section of the baffle extends radially inward from the housing and ~~is positioned axially above a portion of the fan forming~~ forms an axial gap ~~there~~between said annular section and said portion of the fan.

18. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 17 wherein the axial gap is generally uniform in size.

19. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 17 wherein the fan is a backward curved radial fan.

20. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 19 further comprising a rim on the baffle which is positioned generally at an outer periphery of the baffle, the rim having at least one tab configured for being received in a corresponding hole in the casing to releasably secure the baffle in the casing.

21. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 7 wherein the casing includes at least one vent opening positioned radially outward from the fan.

22. (currently amended) An electric motor as set forth in claim 21 wherein ~~a~~ ~~portion~~ said annular section of the baffle extends radially inward from the housing and ~~is positioned axially above a portion of the fan forming~~ forms an axial gap ~~there~~between said annular section and said portion of the fan.

23. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 22 wherein the axial gap is generally uniform in size.

24. (previously presented) An electric motor as set forth in claim 22 wherein the fan is a backward curved radial fan.

25. (currently amended) An electric motor having a ventilation system, the motor comprising a housing, a stator secured in the housing, a rotor and a rotor shaft mounting the rotor for rotation in the housing about an axis, a fan mounted on the rotor shaft for rotation to advance a flow of cooling air through the housing to cool the motor, the fan having a central hub and a plurality of blades, the blades of the fan being spaced from the hub to form a clearance region between the hub and the blades, and a baffle secured in the housing at a position generally between the stator and the fan, the baffle having an annular shape and a central opening, a curved portion of the baffle extending radially inward from the housing and positioned axially above a portion of the fan forming an axial gap between said curved portion of the baffle and said portion of

the fan, the blades of the fan having a shape corresponding to said curved portion of the baffle.

26. (previously presented) The electric motor of claim 25 wherein the axial gap is generally uniform in size.

27. (previously presented) The electric motor of claim 25 wherein the housing includes at least one vent opening positioned radially outward from the fan.

28. (new) An electric motor as set forth in claim 7 wherein the annular section of the baffle includes an inner edge defined by a lip, the lip having a curved convex surface.

29. (new) An electric motor as set forth in claim 28 wherein the lip projects in a generally upstream longitudinal direction from an upstream face of the annular section of the baffle.

30. (new) An electric motor as set forth in claim 29 wherein the baffle has a smooth contour with no sharp corners.

31. (new) An electric motor as set forth in claim 9 further comprising a rim on the baffle which is positioned generally at an outer periphery of the baffle, the rim having

at least one tab configured for being received in a corresponding hole in the casing to releasably secure the baffle in the casing.

32. (new) An electric motor having a ventilation system which inhibits generation of noise, the motor comprising a housing defined by a hollow casing, a stator secured in the housing, a rotor and a rotor shaft mounting the rotor for rotation in the housing about an axis, a fan mounted on said rotor shaft for rotation to advance a flow of cooling air through the housing to cool the motor, the fan having a plurality of blades, and a baffle secured in the housing at a position between the stator and the fan, the baffle including an annular section, a central opening and a lip surrounding the central opening, the lip having a curved convex surface, the blades of the fan having a shape corresponding to the curved convex surface of the lip.